

Sturnella magna (Eastern Meadowlark)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Passeriformes (Perching Birds)

Family: Icteridae (Bobolink, Blackbirds, Cowbirds, Grackles, Meadowlarks, And Orioles)

General comments:

20 yr decline (-70%) alone meets criteria for Endangered so qualifies for Threatened, but far too many occurrences / individuals to go higher than SC

Species Conservation Range Maps for Eastern Meadowlark:

Town Map: [Sturnella magna_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Sturnella magna_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:

Sturnella magna is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):

Status: T, Last Examination: 5/1/2011, Change: New, Canada Occurrence: ON, QC, NB, NS

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Eastern Meadowlark:

Formation Name	Agricultural
Macrogroup Name	Agricultural
Habitat System Name:	Cultivated Crops Notes: Blueberries but not widely
Habitat System Name:	Pasture-Hay
Formation Name	Developed
Macrogroup Name	Urban-Suburban Built
Habitat System Name:	Residential - Rural-Sparse
Formation Name	Grassland & Shrubland
Macrogroup Name	Ruderal Shrubland & Grassland
Habitat System Name:	Ruderal Upland - Old Field

Stressors Assigned to Eastern Meadowlark:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

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Class: Aves (Birds)**Order:** Passeriformes (Perching Birds)**Family:** Icteridae (Bobolink, Blackbirds, Cowbirds, Grackles, Meadowlarks, And Orioles)**IUCN Level 1 Threat** Agriculture and Aquaculture**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Livestock Farming and Ranching**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Highly actionable**Notes:** Timing of harvesting of hay/silage

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Eastern Meadowlark:

**Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Action	Category: Habitat Management	Biological Priority: critical	Type: new
Improve habitat quality and abundance.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Livestock Farming and Ranching

Conservation Actions Associated with the Grassland Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Public Outreach	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Develop a program to inform small landowners of the best methods for keeping fields open for grassland wildlife			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Livestock Farming and Ranching

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Develop a BMP guide for farmers to minimize negative effects of cutting hay/silage during the grassland bird nesting season. NRCS recommendations should be viewed as a start with increased emphasis on timing, field size, and bird behavioral cues.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Livestock Farming and Ranching

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.